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**US AIR FORCE - CHARLESTON AIR FORCE BASE**

**FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT (FONSI)  
CONSTRUCTION OF 315TH RESERVE AIRLIFT WING AEROSPACE MEDICAL SQUADRON  
TRAINING FACILITY  
CHARLESTON AIR FORCE BASE**

Pursuant to the Council on Environmental Quality regulations for implementing the procedural provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and 32 CFR 989, Charleston Air Force Base (AFB) has prepared an Environmental Assessment (EA) for this action. The purpose of the EA is to determine the extent of environmental impacts that may result from construction of the Air Force Reserve's 315th Airlift Wing Aerospace Medical Squadron (315 AW/AMDS) facility and to evaluate whether these impacts, if any, will be significant.

**DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED ACTION**

The US Air Force proposes to construct a new 315th Reserve Medical Training Facility. The new facility will include administrative offices, training facilities, break room, storage, parking, and supporting utilities.

The 315 AW/AMDS is currently occupying approximately 1080 square feet of floor space within the host facility (Building 1000) located on Charleston AFB across Arthur Drive near the proposed new location. The existing facility is too small and the mechanical room temperature system installation insulation is contaminated with asbestos. The functions of other tenants in the existing building are not compatible with the mission of the 315 AW/AMDS, and permanently locating the 315 AW/AMDS at the present facility does not conform to the base's Capital Improvement Plan (CIP). The selected location for the new facility is the former location of the 437 AW Officer's Club. The proposed site is covered with mown grass and a few trees. The 437 AW Chapel Building 1005 is located to the west of the proposed site. The buildings 343, 344, and 346 are located to the north of the proposed site. The 437AW Housing Office is located to the east of the proposed site, and the 437th Medical Clinic, building 364, is located to the south of the proposed site. The proposed site is accessed from Arthur Drive on the west side.

The proposed site location was selected because it is most compatible with the environment, existing land use, and the base's CIP. Several alternatives were considered, but only the Proposed Action satisfies the requirements for a new Reserve Medical Training Facility. Alternatives considered include: (a) No-Action, (b) renovating the existing host facility to increase size, and (c) executing the Proposed Action. Under the No-Action alternative, the morale, welfare, and productivity of assigned personnel will be negatively impacted by not having an adequate training facility to meet mission requirements. This, in turn, would reduce the medical forces' capability of responding to a local/national medical emergency. Renovation of the existing host facility will disrupt existing operations of other tenants, require considerable expenditure of funds, and will not conform to the base's CIP. The Proposed Action, building the 315 AW/AMDS Medical Training Facility at the proposed location, is considered to be the best

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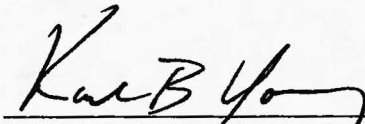
#### CONCLUSION

Based on the findings presented in the EA, a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) to the environment is appropriate if the Proposed Action is implemented. Therefore, an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is not required for this project.

The project will be implemented upon approval and after public notice.

A copy of this EA is available at the Dorchester County Library located near Charleston AFB, on Dorchester Road and at the Environmental Office, building 247, on CAFB. All interested agencies, groups, and persons disagreeing with this decision are invited to submit written comments for consideration by the Charleston AFB Environmental Office. For questions regarding the EA, contact 437 CES/CEVP Environmental Office at Charleston AFB, South Carolina, (843) 963-4976.

#### SIGNED:



KARL B. YOUNG, Colonel, USAF  
Vice Commander, 437 Airlift Wing  
Environmental Protection Committee Chairperson

DATE: 29 Mar 03

**FINAL  
ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT**

**Construct 315 Airlift Wing Aerospace Medical Squadron Facility  
Charleston Air Force Base**



**Prepared by**

**Charleston Air Force Base  
Charleston, SC**

**FINAL  
12 MARCH 03**

**REFERENCE**



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**ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT (EA) FOR THE  
CONSTRUCTION OF THE 315 AIRLIFT WING AEROSPACE MEDICAL SQUADRON  
TRAINING FACILITY  
CHARLESTON AIR FORCE BASE**

**ISSUE TRACKING MATRIX**

<b>Issues</b>	<b>No-Action</b>	<b>Alternative 1-Renovation</b>	<b>Proposed Action</b>
<b>Wetlands</b>	N/A	N/A	N/A
<b>Wildlife</b>	N/A	N/A	N/A
<b>Plant Life</b>	N/A	N/A	N/A
<b>Cost*</b>	N/A	\$2.15 Million	\$1.5 Million
<b>Purpose/Need</b>	Incompatible	Incompatible	Compatible

N/A = Not Applicable

\*Figures provided by the 437 CES Design Office

## **1.0 PURPOSE AND NEED FOR PROPOSED ACTION**

### **.1 Purpose and Need**

The proposed construction action is required to remedy a deficiency of approximately 7,500 square feet of necessary administrative, training, and storage space. The proposed construction action will provide a new, state-of-the-art Medical Training facility designed specifically for medical functions that will improve the morale, welfare, efficiency, proficiency and productivity of the 315 Airlift Wing Aerospace Medical Squadron (315 AW/AMDS). The proposed construction site is located adjacent to the 437 Medical Group facility; providing a dual-use benefit for the 437 and 315 Medical personnel that meets training and mission requirements of the Base's Capital Improvements Plan (CIP).

The 315 AW/AMDS is currently occupying approximately 1080 square feet of floor space within the host facility (Building 1000) located on Charleston AFB across Arthur Drive near the proposed new location. The existing facility is too small and the mechanical room temperature system installation insulation is contaminated with asbestos. In addition, the functions of other tenants are not compatible with the mission of the 315 AW/AMDS. Permanently locating the 315 AW/AMDS in the host facility does not conform to the Base's CIP. Without the necessary training facility, the ability of the 315 AW/AMDS to maintain required standards of proficiency will be severely impacted, thus reducing their capability of responding to a local/national medical emergency.

The new 315 AW/AMDS facility will include the following:

- Administrative offices;
- Training facilities (proficiency training, medical skills laboratory);
- Break room;
- Storage facilities;
- Parking; and
- Supporting facilities such as utilities.

### **.2 Decision Needed**

Based on the analysis documented in this report, the Chairman of the Environmental Protection Committee will make the following decisions:

- Should the 315 AW/AMDS continue to function and train at its current location?
- Should the existing location of the 315 AW/AMDS be increased in size?
- Should a new 315 AW/AMDS facility be constructed that will provide an adequate facility for mission requirements and training?

### **.3 Scoping Summary**

The scope of this Environmental Assessment (EA) includes construction of a 315 AW/AMDS training and administrative facility and associated supporting infrastructure at a new location.

This EA also evaluates the potential environmental impact of constructing the new 315 AW/AMDS facility. The site is located in a administrative and office facilities portion of Charleston AFB that includes facilities such as the 437 Clinic facility, the 437 AW Chapel, the 437 Housing Office, and Billeting facilities 343, 344, and 346. The proposed site is located near the northwestern corner of Hill Boulevard and Author Drive and is adjacent to the 437 Medical facility. The front of the proposed facility will be facing Author Drive. The site is approximately 1.4 acres and the proposed 315 AW/AMDS facility is approximately 8,400 square feet. The proposed site is covered with mown grass and a few trees and has a very level topography. Please see Appendix C for the proposed site location.

#### .4 Applicable Regulatory Requirements

##### Stormwater Management

Any construction in the coastal region must first be approved by applying for a stormwater management permit. Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management (OCRM) administers the stormwater management programs in the eight coastal counties that include **Beaufort, Berkeley, Charleston, Colleton, Dorchester, Georgetown, Horry and Jasper Counties**. South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC) Bureau of Water implements the program in the other counties in South Carolina.

The reason for the permit is simple. DHEC is concerned about water quality and sediment control. They want to make sure that stormwater runoff during construction of projects as well as completed projects will not have an adverse effect on rivers, streams, marshes and other sensitive areas of the coast. The stormwater program requires the development and implementation of a plan to control stormwater runoff and sediment to prevent silt and mud from entering surrounding wetlands and waterbodies.

As detailed in the Stormwater Management and Sediment and Erosion Control Permitting document that is published by the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (SCDHEC), Bureau of Water, the following is required:

- For projects less than 2 acres such as this one, OCRM must be provided with an application for land disturbance; a set of plans for the project; a copy of drainage calculations; and a USGS Quad map showing project location.

Because Charleston AFB is located in a coastal county, permit applications must be submitted to the SCDHEC OCRM for approval. Phone number for OCRM is 843-744-5838.

##### Wetlands

No wetlands will be affected by this project. This determination was made by reviewing the *Final Report for Natural Resources Surveys, Charleston Air Force Base, South Carolina*, October 1997, and on site inspection/observation by environmental personnel at Charleston AFB.



### Threatened and Endangered Species

No threatened and/or endangered species will be affected by this project. This determination was made by reviewing the *Final Report for Natural Resources Surveys, Charleston Air Force Base, South Carolina*, October 1997, the South Carolina Rare, Threatened and Endangered Species Inventory, Species found in Charleston County, and by on site inspection/observation by environmental personnel at Charleston AFB.

## **2.0 DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPOSED ACTION AND ALTERNATIVES**

### **.1 Detailed Discussion of the Proposed Action**

The Proposed Action requires a contractor to construct a facility at a selected site for use by the 315 AW/AMDS. The selected site is co-located adjacent to the existing 437 Medical facility and other operational facilities at Charleston AFB. The area around the site is developed and is equipped with sanitary sewer, potable water, stormwater drainage, and fiber optic and electrical services. A site map is provided in Appendix C. The project needs are as follows:

- Administrative offices;
- Training facilities (proficiency training, medical skills laboratory);
- Break room;
- Storage facilities;
- Parking; and
- Supporting facilities such as utilities.

This Proposed Action is the only alternative that meets all project requirements. It resolves space requirement issues by providing the necessary administrative and medical training for the 315 AW/AMDS.

### **.2 Alternatives Considered**

Three alternatives have been considered and evaluated in an effort to identify the most feasible and least environmentally damaging approach to the proposed construction activity. Alternatives considered include:

- No-action;
- Alternative 1 – renovation; or
- Proposed Action.

### **.3 Detailed Discussion of the No-Action Alternative**

With the No-Action alternative, the 8,400 square foot Medical Training facility would not be constructed and the existing deficiencies and operational space issues would remain unresolved, thus limiting quality of mission requirements. This alternative will compromise the ability of the 315 AW/AMDS to respond to a local/national medical emergency.

#### **.4 Detailed Discussion of Alternative 1**

Renovation of the existing 315 AW/AMDS facility would significantly disrupt existing functions of active duty tenants and require considerable expenditure of funds for temporary facilities or leased space. In addition, the active duty forces need all their space and the Reserve Forces need to be consolidated in one location. According to the 437 CES Design Office, the renovation alone is estimated to be approximately \$2.15 million dollars. Renovation of the existing location is not feasible due to the inadequate land availability around the facility. Further, renovation does not solve issues such as the requirement of a specifically designed training facility that provides a dual use benefit with the 437 Medical Forces, and it does not conform to the base's CIP.

#### **.5 Detailed Discussion of the Proposed Action**

The Proposed Action is the construction of a new state-of-the-art Medical facility located adjacent to the existing 437 Clinic facility. The Proposed Action will meet the needs of the 315 AW/AMDS, current Air Force and Department of Defense (DoD) standards, the CIP, and will cost much less than renovation of the current location. According to the 437 CES Design Office, the estimated cost of the Proposed Action is approximately \$1.3 million dollars. The Proposed Action will create a safe work environment, and improve the effectiveness and efficiency of the 315 AW/AMDS training. This will ensure that Charleston AFB has superior Medical personnel available when needed.

#### **.6 Detailed Discussion of the Preferred Alternative**

The Proposed Action is the preferred alternative. The No Action alternative does not meet the project objectives and deficiencies, and operational space issues would remain unresolved, thus limiting quality of training of the 315 AW/AMDS. Alternative 1 also does not meet the project objectives, in addition to being too costly and disruptive. Plus it does not provide for consolidation of the 315 medical personnel. The Proposed Action will meet all project objectives and will have minimal impact on the environment. In addition, it will comply with current Air Force and DoD standards. The site selected for the new facility is consistent with the long-range land use planned for the installation.

### **3.0 AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT**

#### **.1 Introduction**

Representatives of 437 CES/CEVP visited the site on 29 Jan 03. The purpose of this visit was to collect site and project information. Reconnaissance of the proposed site for the 315 AW/AMDS facility was conducted to develop a site-specific understanding of current environmental conditions. The site is located in an administrative portion of the base that includes the 437 Medical facility, the 437 AW Chapel, the fitness center, billeting and housing office.

Wetlands and other natural resource issues at Charleston AFB are described in detail in the *Final Report for Natural Resources Surveys, Charleston Air Force Base, South Carolina*, October 1997, prepared by Rust Environment & Infrastructure. The proposed location for the 315 AW/AMDS facility is not located near delineated wetland areas. The sections that follow describe environmental concerns regarding construction of the 315 AW/AMDS facility. The

discussions are derived primarily, in some cases verbatim, from the *Final Report for Natural Resources Surveys*.

## **.2 Location, History, and Current Mission**

The Charleston AFB is situated within a developed area of North Charleston, South Carolina. Surrounding development consists of residential, commercial, and industrial areas. Charleston AFB is bordered to the west by Dorchester Road. Interstate Highway 26 is located northeast of the base. The proposed 315 AW/AMDS facility is located near the northwestern corner of Hill Boulevard and Arthur Drive, adjacent to the 437 Clinic facility.

## **.3 Description of the Project Area**

### **.3.1 General Land Use**

Approximately 85 percent of the land at Charleston AFB is characterized as "improved grounds." This category includes acreage on which maintenance must be planned and performed. The dominant land use at Charleston AFB within the improved grounds category consists of airfield, aircraft operations and maintenance areas, industrial and administrative areas, and housing.

The remaining 15 percent of the land at Charleston AFB is comprised of forests and wetlands. Portions of these areas are classified as "semi-improved lands," which require periodic maintenance. Remaining forests and wetlands are classified as "unimproved lands" that are kept in a natural state by Charleston AFB.

### **.3.2 Soils**

Fifteen soil types have been mapped at Charleston AFB. The surface soils are typically sand and sandy loam, with clay content generally increasing with depth. Permeability is relatively higher in surface soils, and decreases with depth and increasing clay content. The decrease in permeability of the clayey subsoil results in short-term saturation of sandy surface soils following rainfall events.

### **.3.3 Principal Natural Communities**

Virtually all of the natural communities at Charleston AFB consist of forested wetlands, most of which are located near installation boundaries. Red maple, sweetgum, sweetbay, and black willow trees control the canopy of these wetland communities. Understory communities include viburnum, redbay, elderberry, and privet shrubbery. The herb layer communities consist of soft rush, alligator weed, smartweeds, and chain ferns. An elongated ephemeral gum pond is located in the northwest portion of the installation. The forested wetland is dominated by swamp blackgum, with few red maples around the fringes.

### **.3.4 Plant and Animal Life**

#### **.3.4.1 Plant Life**

- No federally listed threatened and/or endangered (T&E) plant species, nor suitable habitat for such species, are present at the proposed 315 AW/AMDS site.

- No federal Species-of-Concern, or suitable habitat for such species is present at the proposed 315 AW/AMDS site.

#### .3.4.2 Animal Life

- No federally listed T&E animal species, nor suitable habitat for such species, are present at the proposed 315 AW/AMDS site.
- No state listed threatened, endangered, or special concern animal species are present at Charleston AFB.

The following indigenous animals are common to the area:

- Mammals: White-tailed deer
- Birds: Eastern kingbird, northern cardinal, blue jay, red-tailed hawk, white-eyed vireo, and American goldfinch.

No reptiles or amphibians reportedly were sighted or heard during the T&E surveys.

437 CES/CEVP personnel reviewed the *South Carolina Rare, Threatened and Endangered Species Inventory, Species Found in Charleston County*, dated August 7, 2002 to verify that no species, as identified in the *Natural Resources Surveys*, were listed as threatened or endangered.

#### .3.5 Special Interest Natural Areas

The *Final Report for Natural Resources Surveys* identified one area, the ephemeral gum pond located in the northwestern portion of the base, as a special interest natural area. This habitat provides excellent breeding habitat for amphibians. The pond is remote from the proposed 315 AW/AMDS facility.

### 4.0 ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES

This section discusses the probable consequences of each alternative on the affected environment.

#### .1 No-Action Alternative

No environmental consequences are associated with the No-Action alternative. This alternative allows for the existing deficiencies and operational space issues at the existing facility to remain unresolved. This negates the need for construction and eliminates the opportunity for environmental impact.

#### .2 Alternative 1

No environmental consequences are associated with Alternative 1. This alternative, however, will not provide the required training facilities and will require expensive temporary or leased facilities that will not comply with the CIP. In addition, the cost is two times that of the Proposed Action.

### **.3 Proposed Action**

The Proposed Action is construction of a new 315 AW/AMDS facility adjacent to the existing 437 Clinic facility. The Proposed Action will meet current Air Force and DoD standards, the CIP, and will improve the effectiveness and efficiency of the tasks that are required to maintain security at the base. Minimal environmental impact is anticipated at the proposed site.

### **.4 Cumulative Impacts**

Recent past and near future projects in the vicinity of the project site are not expected to adversely impact the environment with regards to cumulative impacts. Some of those projects are: completed renovation of building 346 just north of the project; completed renovation of the chapel just east of the site; completed renovation of the clinic building 364 just south of the site; future addition to the housing office building 323 just west of the site.

## **5.0 CONCLUSION**

The Proposed Action as described in this document is the only alternative that meets all requirements of the project with consideration of the surrounding environment. Building the new 315 AWA/MDS facility eliminates space issues and will be designed specifically for their function. The Proposed Action will locate the 315 AW/AMDS near the existing 437 AW Clinic, thus providing a dual-use benefit that meets training and mission requirements of the base's CIP. The Proposed Action will also improve the morale, welfare, efficiency, and productivity of the 315 AW/AMDS. The new complex will meet current Air Force and DoD standards, will serve long-range master planning objectives, and will provide multiple service and training facilities in a convenient location for the 315 AW/AMDS. While meeting all project requirements, it also poses minimal impact to the environment.

Alternative 1 is not practical and will not fulfill the design requirements of the 315 AW/AMDS. It is not cost-effective, it will require expensive temporary or leased facilities, and it will not comply with base's CIP.

The No-Action alternative is protective of the environment, but does not meet project requirements and the base's long-term planning goals.



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## 6.0 LIST OF REFERENCES

Charleston Air Force Base, *Base General Plan (GIS)*, Under-development

Ocean and Coastal Resource Management, Regulations Department at the web address of <http://www.scdhec.net/ocrm/html/perm.html>.

Rust Environment & Infrastructure, 1997, *Final Report for Natural Resources Surveys, Charleston Air Force Base, South Carolina*, Contract No. F41624-94-D-8048-0013, October 1997.

South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control, Bureau of Water, NPDES Stormwater Program at the web address of <http://www.scdhec.net/water/html/swnpdes.html>.

South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control, Bureau of Water, Stormwater Management and Sediment and Erosion Control Permitting, July 2002.

South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control, Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management, Stormwater Permitting and Certification at the web address of <http://www.scdhec.net/ocrm/html/apps.html>.

South Carolina Department of Natural Resources, Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries Division, *South Carolina Rare, Threatened and Endangered Species Inventory*, August 2002.

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## **7.0 LIST OF PREPARERS**

This report was prepared by Charleston AFB, 437 CES/CEVP, Environmental Management Office. Listed below are members of the professional staff and others who have contributed to the development of this document.

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Programs and Base Development

***Cpt Melinda Carr***  
315 AW/AMDS

## **8.0 LIST OF AGENCIES AND PERSONNEL CONTACTED**

Presented below is a listing of each agency consulted or contacted.

### **Agency**

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**APPENDIX A**

**FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT (FONSI)**

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**US AIR FORCE - CHARLESTON AIR FORCE BASE**

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alternative. It is consistent with existing land use, resolves the issues of limited training and storage space, and conforms to the base's CIP.

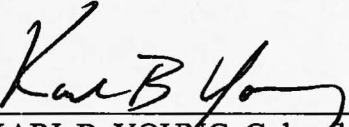
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The project will be implemented upon approval and after public notice.

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#### SIGNED:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
KARL B. YOUNG, Colonel, USAF  
Vice Commander, 437 Airlift Wing  
Environmental Protection Committee Chairperson

DATE: 24 Mar 03

## **APPENDIX B**

### **RECORDS OF COMMUNICATION**

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**RECORD OF COMMUNICATION**

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**PROJECT TASK:** 315 AEROSPACE MEDICAL SQUADRON TRAINING FACILITY, ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

**COMMUNICATION WITH:** Mr. Neil Desai, South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control, Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management

**DATE OF COMMUNICATION:** 6 March 2003

**TELEPHONE NUMBER:** (843) 744-5838, Extension 121

**FAX NUMBER:**

**CONDUCTED BY:** Harold Deese

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**RE:** LAND DISTURBANCE APPLIATION

**SUMMARY:**

Discussed land disturbance with Mr. Dasai. He stated for less than 2 acres, OCRM must be provided with an application for land disturbance; a set of plans for the project; a copy of drainage calculations; and a USGS Quad map showing project location. Mr. Richard Geer, at OCRM is POC for these documents.

**FOLLOW-UP:**

None

## **APPENDIX C**

### **SITE MAP**

1. COMPONENT AF (AFRC)	<b>FY 2003 MILITARY CONSTRUCTION PROJECT DATA</b>	2. DATE
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3. INSTALLATION AND LOCATION

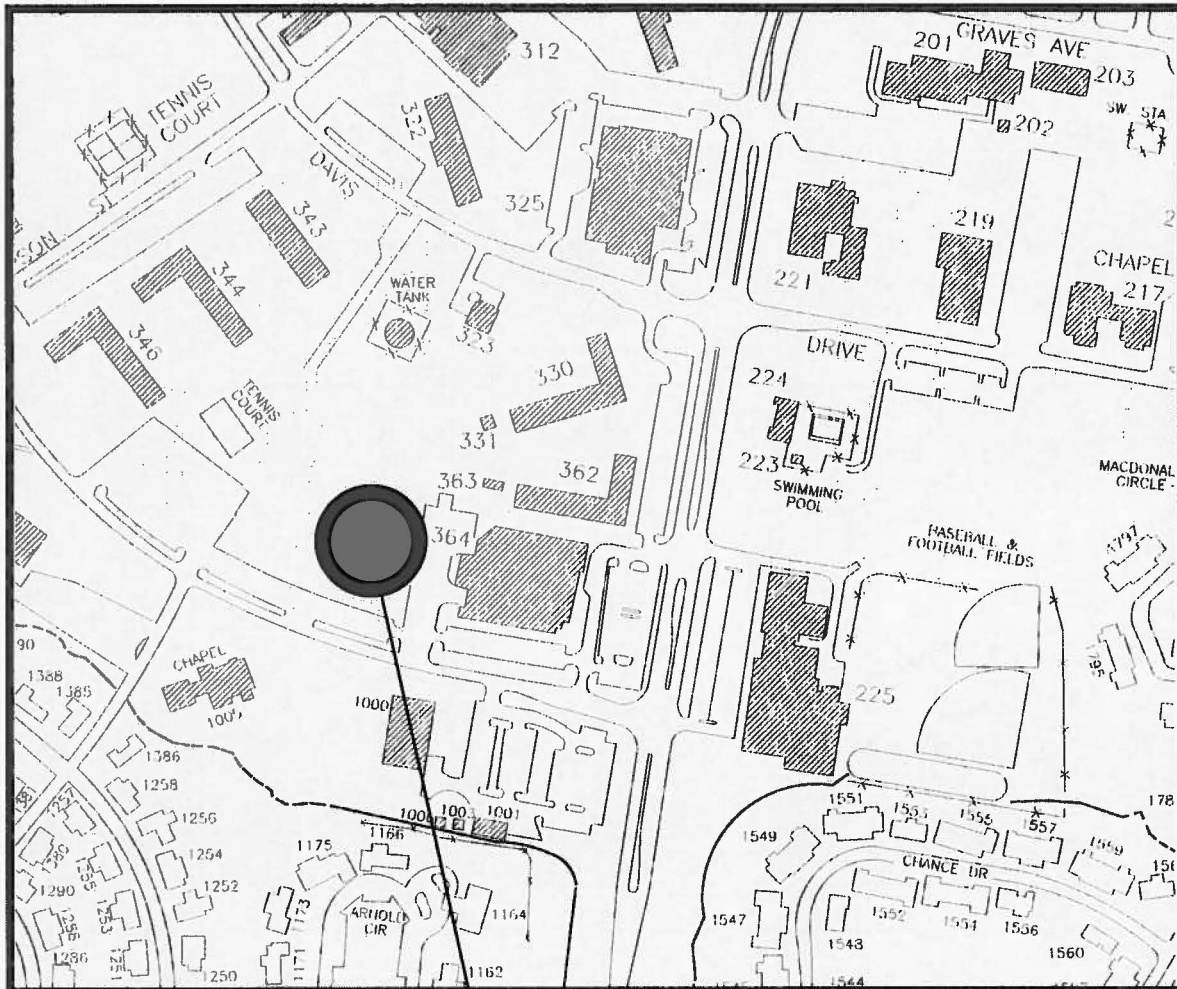
CHARLESTON AIR FORCE BASE, SOUTH CAROLINA

4. PROJECT TITLE

MEDICAL TRAINING FACILITY (AFRC)

5. PROJECT NUMBER

DKFX02-9007



PROJECT SITE

**SITE PLAN**

NOT TO SCALE



**APPENDIX D**

**PHOTOGRAPHS**

**APPENDIX D**

**PHOTOGRAPHS**



**Photo 1: Looking southeast at Clinic Building 364.**



**Photo 2: Looking southeast at Clinic Building 364. Proposed site is almost unobstructed.**



**Photo 3: Looking west at Chapel Building 1005.**



**Photo 4: Looking southeast at Clinic Building 364.**





**Photo 5: Looking north at billeting building 344.**



**Photo 6: Looking southeast at Clinic Building 364. Stormwater drain catch basin in foreground.**



**Photo 7: Looking at stormwater drain catch basin in front of proposed site. There are several of these along Arthur Drive.**



Harold Deese  
100 W. Stewart Ave.  
Charleston Afb SC 29404

Number of Copies: 1

## AFFIDAVIT OF PUBLICATION

# The Post and Courier

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County of Charleston

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### US AIR FORCE - CHARLESTON AIR FORCE BASE FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT (FONSI) CONSTRUCTION OF 315TH RESERVE AIRLIFT WING AEROSPACE MEDICAL SQUADRON TRAINING FACILITY CHARLESTON AIR FORCE BASE

Pursuant to the Council on Environmental Quality regulations for implementing the procedural provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and 22 CFR 101, Charleston Air Force Base (AFB) has prepared an Environmental Assessment (EA) for this action. The purpose of the EA is to determine the extent of environmental impacts that may result from construction of the Air Force Reserve 315th Airlift Wing Aerospace Medical Squadron (315 AW/AMDS) facility and to evaluate whether these impacts, if any, will be significant.

#### DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED ACTION

The US Air Force proposes to construct a new 315th Reserve Medical Training Facility. The new facility will include administrative offices, training facilities, break room, storage, parking, and supporting utilities.

The 315 AW/AMDS is currently occupying approximately 1080 square feet of floor space within the host facility (Building 1000) located on Charleston AFB across Arthur Drive near the proposed new location. The existing facility is too small and the mechanical room temperature system installation insulation is contaminated with asbestos. The functions of other tenants in the existing building are not compatible with the mission of the 315 AW/AMDS, and permanently localizing the 315 AW/AMDS at the present facility does not conform to the base's Capital Improvement Plan (CIP). The selected location for the new facility is the former location of the 437 AW Officers Club. The proposed site is covered with mown grass and a few trees. The 437 AW Chapel Building 1005 is located to the west of the proposed site. The buildings 343, 344, and 346 are located to the north of the proposed site. The 437 AW Housing Office is located to the east of the proposed site, and the 437th Medical Clinic, building 344, is located to the south of the proposed site. The proposed site is accessed from Arthur Drive on the west side.

The proposed site location was selected because it is most compatible with the environment, existing land use, and the base's CIP. Several alternatives were considered, but only the Proposed Action satisfies the requirements for a new Reserve Medical Training Facility. Alternatives considered include: (a) No-Action, (b) renovating the existing host facility to increase size, and (c) executing the Proposed Action. Under the No-Action alternative, the morale, welfare, and productivity of assigned personnel will be negatively impacted by not having an adequate training facility to meet mission requirements. This, in turn, would reduce the medical forces' capability of responding to a local/national medical emergency. Renovation of the existing host facility will disrupt existing operations of other tenants, require considerable expenditure of funds, and will not conform to the base's CIP. The Proposed Action, building the 315 AW/AMDS Medical Training Facility at the proposed location, is considered to be the best alternative. It is consistent with existing land use, resolves the issues of limited training and storage space, and conforms to the base's CIP.

#### CONCLUSION

Based on the findings presented in the EA, a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) to the environment is appropriate if the Proposed Action is implemented. Therefore, an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is not required for this project.

The project will be implemented upon approval and after public notice.

A copy of this EA is available at the Dorchester County Library located near Charleston AFB, on Dorchester Road and at the Environmental Office, building 147, on CAFB. All interested agencies, groups, and persons disagreeing with this decision are invited to submit written comments for consideration by the Charleston AFB Environmental Office. For questions regarding the EA, contact 437 CES/CEVP Environmental Office at Charleston AFB, South Carolina, (843) 983-4976.

SIGNED: KARL B. YOUNG, Colonel, USAF  
Vice Commander, 437 Airlift Wing  
Environmental Protection Committee Chairperson

DATE: March 24, 2003

THE POST AND COURIER  
134 COLUMBUS ST.  
CHARLESTON, SC 29403

DATE: 3-31-03

FROM: GINGER HARLEY, LEGAL ADVERTISING  
PHONE: 843-937-5504

FAX: 843-937-5473

TO: Harold Deere FAX: (843) 963-2697

NUMBER OF PAGES INCLUDING COVER SHEET: 2

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# The Post and Courier

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## US AIR FORCE - CHARLESTON AIR FORCE BASE

### FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT (FONSI) CONSTRUCTION OF 315TH RESERVE AIRLIFT WING AEROSPACE MEDICAL SQUADRON TRAINING FACILITY CHARLESTON AIR FORCE BASE

Pursuant to the Council on Environmental Quality regulations for implementation of the procedural provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and 32 CFR 399, Charleston Air Force Base (AFB) has prepared an Environmental Assessment (EA) for this action. The purpose of the EA is to determine the potential environmental impacts that may result from construction of the Air Force Reserve's 315th Airlift Wing Aerospace Medical Squadron (315 AW/AMDS) facility and to evaluate whether these impacts, if any, will be significant.

#### DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED ACTION

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The 315 AW/AMDS is currently occupying approximately 1000 square feet of floor space within the host facility (Building 1000) located on Charleston AFB across Arthur Drive near the proposed new location. The existing facility is too small and the mechanical room temperature system installation insulation is contaminated with asbestos. The functions of other tenants in the existing facility are not compatible with the mission of the 315 AW/AMDS, and permanently locating the 315 AW/AMDS at the present facility does not conform to the base's Capital Improvement Program (CIP). The selected location for the new facility is the former location of the 437 AW Officer's Club. The proposed site is bordered with mown grass and a few trees. The 437 AW Chapel building 1005 is located to the west of the proposed site. The buildings 343, 344, and 345 are located to the north of the proposed site. The 437 AW Housing Office is located to the east of the proposed site, and the 437th Medical Clinic, building 11, is located to the south of the proposed site. The proposed site is accessed from Arthur Drive on the west side.

The proposed location was selected because it is most compatible with the environment, existing land use, and the base's CIP. Several alternatives were considered, but only the Proposed Action satisfied the requirements for a new Reserve Medical Training Facility. Alternatives considered include: (a) No Action, (b) renovating the existing host facility to increase size, and (c) expanding the Proposed Action. Under the No Action alternative, the morale, welfare, and productivity of assigned personnel will be negatively impacted by not having an adequate training facility to meet mission requirements. This, in turn, would reduce the medical forces' capability of responding to a local medical emergency. Renovation of the existing host facility will disrupt existing operations of other tenants, require considerable expenditure of funds, and will not conform to the base's CIP. The Proposed Action, building the 315 AW/AMDS Medical Training Facility at the proposed location, is considered to be the best alternative. It is consistent with existing land use, resolves the issue of limited training and storage space, and conforms to the base's CIP.

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The project will be implemented upon approval and after public notice.

A copy of this EA is available at the Dorchester County Library located near Charleston AFB, on Dorchester Road and at the Environmental Office, building 247, on CAFB. All interested agencies, groups, and persons disagreeing with this decision are invited to submit written comments for consideration by the Charleston AFB Environmental Office. For questions regarding the EA, contact 437 CES/CEV Environmental Office at Charleston AFB, South Carolina, (843) 965-4976.

SIGNED: KARL B. YOUNG, Colonel, USAF  
Vice Commander, 315th Airlift Wing  
Environmental Protection Committee Chairperson

DATE:  
March 24, 2003

Classified Dept. (843) 722-6500 Fax: (843) 937-5408 or 937-5410  
www.Charleston.net

# STAFF SUMMARY SHEET

	TO	ACTION	SIGNATURE (Surname), GRADE AND DATE		TO	ACTION	SIGNATURE (Surname), GRADE AND DATE
1	MSG/CCE	Coord	Huckin, Cvt 17 Mar 03	6	AW/CV	Sign	Y 24
	MSG/CD	Coord		7	Aw/cc	INFO	24
3	MSG/CC	Coord	Sgt/E. Anderson, Co 18 Mar '03	8			
4	AW/CCE	Coord	JCC 21 Mar 03	9			
5	AW/CVS	Coord	Rebecca Copeman 21 Mar 03	10			

SURNAME OF ACTION OFFICER AND GRADE	SYMBOL	PHONE	TYPIST'S INITIALS	SUSPENSE DATE
Harold Deese, GS-11	CEVP	2701	hod	

SUBJECT	DATE
Finding Of No Significant Impact (FONSI) for Environmental Assessment (EA) to Construct a New 315 AW/AMDS Training Facility	14 Mar 03

## SUMMARY

1. Request AW/CV sign the FONSI (Tab 1) for the subject EA (Tab 2). 32 CFR 989 requires the FONSI be signed by the Environmental Protection Committee Chairperson.

2. RECOMMENDATION. AW/CV sign the FONSI at Tab 1.

*Glenn W. Easterby*

GLENN W. EASTERBY, GS-13, DAF  
Deputy Base Civil Engineer

- 2 Tabs  
1. FONSI  
2. EA

## **Deese Harold O Civ 437 CES/CEV**

---

**From:** Urrutia Alvaro E Civ 437 CES/CECV  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 14, 2003 9:48 AM  
**To:** Hams Terri LtCol 315 MSG/CD; Eunice Richard Civ AFRC/CEC  
**Cc:** Bone Thomas M Civ 437 CES/CECC; Dean William C Civ 437 CES/CEC; Deese Harold O Civ 437 CES/CEV; Garrett Jeffrey P Civ 437 CES/CEVQ  
**Subject:** RE: environmental survey

All,

Upon further review, my office has determined that an Environmental Assessment (EA) will be necessary for the construction of the new AFRC Medical Facility. Now the good news, we have also determined that the EA will be written in-house. Therefore, please cancel all fund requests associated with accomplishing an EA for the new medical facility as they are no longer needed.

If all goes well, we expect to have the EA completed by 24 April 03, including the 30-day public comment period.

Please call and/or email if you have any questions.

V/R,  
Al Urrutia  
437 CES/CEVP  
DSN 673-4978, COMM 843-963-4978

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Hams Terri LtCol 315 MSG/CD  
**Sent:** Friday, January 10, 2003 5:42 PM  
**To:** Urrutia Alvaro E Civ 437 CES/CECV; Bone Thomas M Civ 437 CES/CECC; Dean William C Civ 437 CES/CEC; Dowling Marla J Lt Col 437 CES/CC  
**Cc:** Eunice Richard Civ AFRC/CEC  
**Subject:** environmental survey

Mr. Urrutia,

Col Moore called me to tell me that you told him the 437th CE folks can not do the environmental study for the new 315 Medical facility. This is very shocking, since the Navy was here yesterday and today, to meet with us and to design the building. While they were here they said they were going to award the contract in March(?!!)

This is a Congressional - add project and is a design-build with a VERY FAST time schedule, to start this year.

What do we do if we don't get help from you? Cancel the project? What do you want us to tell the Navy?

**Terri Hams**

TERESA A. HAMS, Lt Col, USAFR  
Deputy Support Group Commander